

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01836 250759Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /080 W

-----046805 250801Z /13

R 250724Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7177

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1836

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, CH, US

SUBJECT: FRIENDLIER CHINESE DIPLOMATS

1. CHINESE DIPLOMATS HERE ARE ADOPTING FRIENDLIER STANCE TOWARD THEIR US COUNTERPARTS. MOST NOTABLE HAS BEEN CHANGE IN CHINESE AMBASSADOR WHO NOW WILL SPEAK TO ME OR SHAKE MY HAND. I NOTE THIS CHANGE OCCURED SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL FIRST C-130 FOR SUDANESE AIR FORCE. RECENTLY AT FAREWELL PARTY FOR JAPANESE AMBASSADOR THREE CHINESE DIPLOMATS ENGAGED EMBOFF IN ANIMATED CONVERSATION. THIS FIRST TIME THIS HAPPENED TO OFFICER WHO HAS BEEN HERE OVER THREE YEARS. SIMILARLY AT RELATIVELY INTIMATE DINNER GIVEN BY FRENCH EMBOFF, DCM MET CHINESE POLITICAL COUNSELOR LI CHIH-TSIEN WHO EXPLAINED THAT HE IS SECOND RANKING MEMBER CHINESE EMBASSY HERE. THOUGH SOMEWHAT RESERVED LI, THROUGH INTERPRETER, WAS FRIENDLY AND TALKED AT SOME LENGTH WITH DCM, ALBEIT NOT ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. DATT ALSO EXPERIENCING IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINESE MILITARY ATTACHE.

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2. COMMENT: RELATIVE CIVILITY OF CHINESE EMBOFFS HERE RECENTLY CONTRASTS WITH TRADITIONAL BEHAVIOR OF AMBASSADOR CHANG YUEH WHO HAD GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO AVOID SPEAKING WITH AMERICAN DIPLOMATS. WE NOTE THAT CHINESE IN SOME NEIGHBORING POSTS HAVE ALSO EXHIBITED FRIENDLIER BEHAVIOR RECENTLY. SO FAR THERE LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE IN ENCOUNTERS HERE. WHILE WE

ASSUME, BASED ON REPORTS FROM ELSEWHERE, THAT CHINESE ARE
PURPOSELY BEING FRIENDLIER TO U.S. BECAUSE OF CONCERN OVER
SOVIET ADVANCES IN HORN, THEY HAVE NOT RPT NOT YET DISCUSSED
HORN ISSUES WITH US HERE.
BERGUS

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NNN

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